



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

14A
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,123	12/29/2003	Robert Burnett	1285-0135US	9801

24587 7590 12/28/2006
ALCATEL USA
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
3400 W. PLANO PARKWAY, MS LEGL2
PLANO, TX 75075

EXAMINER

PASCAL, LESLIE C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2613

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/28/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/750,123

Applicant(s)

BURNETT ET AL.

Examiner

Leslie Pascal

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well-established utility.

The claims do not make clear what the utility of the invention is. The claims claim that a topology map is generated, forwarded and updated. It is not clear what is "useful" with regard to this. The updated topology map is never used. See the guidelines for "useful" on pages 20-21 of

http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/guidelines101_20051026.pdf.

Although from the specification, the applicant says that a "craft" (craftsman?) uses the information using an NOC 228 in order to know how to provide maintenance. This appears to be the "useful" part of the invention, yet is not claimed in claims 1-6, 10-14 and 18-24. In regard to claims 7, 15 and 25, although this claims, "providing a crafts person an indication of pass-through wavelengths". This also does not provide a "useful" invention because this does not provide a use (i.e. determining protection switching based on the pass-through wavelengths, would be useful). In regard to claims 9, 19 and 27, there is no "useful" invention by "indicating how the network elements

affect each other during local maintenance operations” because this information does not provide a useful function and is not used in the claims to provide a useful function. It is also unclear how this is accomplished. It is unclear how the “craft” retrieves this information and WHAT an NOC 228 is. See also MPEP 2173.05(q) and the 112, second paragraph rejection below. In regard to claims 18-19, 22-27, a second map portion is generated and never used.

Claims 1-27 also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention.

In addition to not specifically describing how the “craft” retrieves the information. It is also unclear how this is accomplished. It is unclear how the “craft” retrieves this information and WHAT an NOC 228 is.

The specification does not teach specific means that generate a first and second topology map or even specific means to forward and update the maps. In regard to claim 3, it is not clear from the specification how to determine pass-through wavelengths at each network element. It almost appears that the applicant feels that all nodes inherently have means to provide these functions, since such means are not specifically disclosed.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 7-9, 15-17, 21-22 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

See also MPEP 2173.05(q). It says that claim scope is indefinite if it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced. The applicants' claims do not relate to the last portion of this section because the applicants' claims do not CLEARLY recite the step of utilizing a device as in *Ex Parte Porter*, but of using something in order to provide a result without setting forth steps to provide the intended result. See also MPEP 2111.04.

6. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the means for generating the first topology map and means for generating a second topology maps and means for forwarding the maps and means for updating of claim 10 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for

consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-6, 10-14, 18-20 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramaswami et al (5781537) in view of Wu et al (2002/01781886).

Ramaswami et al teach generating a wavelength topology table (figure 3) and forwarding and updating the tables at each node (column 7, lines 29-60). Although he does not specifically teach determining a topology map in a first direction and a second direction, it would have been obvious to do that since the information about all required wavelengths is sent in the topology map to all adjacent nodes. Further, it teaches that the update message that is sent lists the adjacent up links to the node and their wavelength usage. Since all information with regard to a certain direction are sent to each adjacent node, it would have been obvious to send only information that would affect each node only in order to save memory at each node by sending non relevant

Art Unit: 2613

information to each node. Although he does not teach specifics about how the map is sent, Wu et al teaches that it is well known to use either in-band or out-of-band wavelengths as the control channel (paragraph 8) in a system that sends forwarding tables (paragraph 20). It would have been obvious to use a dedicated channel which is an out-of-band wavelength in order to send updating tables as taught by Wu et al. In regard to determining the pass through, see the last paragraph of column 7. It says that each node determines all of the wavelengths that go through it (pass through it). In regard to forwarding OAM&P information, it would have been obvious to send such information over a control channel. Much of what is claimed, the applicants' specification does not teach details of. It appears from this that the applicant feels that such is so well known that they do not disclose how it is done. The applicant only discloses that OAM&P data is sent, not how it is sent.

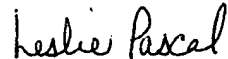
9. Claims 7-9, 15-17, 21-22 and 25-27 have not been rejected using art because it is unclear what the applicant is claiming. This is not an indication that the claims are allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Pascal whose telephone number is 571-272-3032. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on 571-272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2613

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Leslie Pascal
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2613